



February 25, 2022

Environment Committee
Legislative Office Building, Room 3200
Hartford, CT 06106
Phone: 860-240-0440
Email: envtestimony@cga.ct.gov

Re:

SUPPORT SB 118 (prohibits use of certain polystyrene products)
SUPPORT SB 120 (bans certain pesticides)
SUPPORT HB 5140 (prohibits hand-harvesting of horseshoe crabs)

Dear Co-Chair Cohen, Co-Chair Demicco, Vice Chair Kushner, Vice Chair Gresko, Ranking Member Miner, Ranking Member Harding, and Honorable Members of the Environment Committee,

On behalf of the Connecticut-based supporters of The Humane Society of the United States, the largest animal protection organization in the country, please accept this public hearing testimony in SUPPORT of SB 118, SB 120, and HB 5140.

SUPPORT SB 118, AAC the use of certain polystyrene products

Single-use plastics and polystyrenes are detrimental to the environment and wildlife. Many seabirds, sea turtles, seals, and other marine mammals are killed each year after ingestion or entanglement. Per the Center for Biological Diversity, endangered wildlife like Hawaiian monk seals¹ and Pacific loggerhead sea turtles² are among nearly 300 species that eat and get caught in plastic litter³. Scientists estimate that 90% of all seabirds alive today have ingested plastic during their life and marine litter harms over 600 species⁴. A report⁵ from the Ellen MacArthur Foundation in partnership with the World Economic Forum predicts that by 2050 plastic in the ocean could weigh more than fish.

Plastics that wash into our oceans break down into microplastics, which are now pervasive throughout our ocean ecosystem. Microplastics cause problems with ingestion for marine and aquatic invertebrates – including species such as mussels, clams, oysters, and scallops – who fill their stomachs with tiny plastic beads instead of food particles,

1 http://www.biologicaldiversity.org/species/mammals/Hawaiian_monk_seal/index.html

2 http://www.biologicaldiversity.org/species/reptiles/loggerhead_sea_turtle/index.html

3 https://www.biologicaldiversity.org/campaigns/ocean_plastics/

4 <https://www.csiro.au/en/News/News-releases/2015/Marine-debris>

5 https://www.biologicaldiversity.org/campaigns/ocean_plastics/

some dying of starvation as a result. Items that are used once and thrown in the landfill and can take years (sometimes hundreds of years) to decompose.

SUPPORT SB 120, AAC the use of chlorpyrifos on golf courses and neonicotinoids for nonagricultural use

Chlorpyrifos is a nerve gas pesticide with devastating impacts. The federal government has banned chlorpyrifos on food crops. The overwhelming (90%) of chlorpyrifos usage in Connecticut is on golf courses for cosmetic purposes.

Neonicotinoids are known to be one of the major factors in the death of pollinators as well as other wildlife including many endangered species. Lawns are the largest known source of neonic pollution in urban/suburban areas.

Bans on chlorpyrifos and neonicotinoids will protect pollinators and wildlife, as well as people and their pets.

SUPPORT HB 5140, AAC the hand-harvesting of horseshoe crabs in the state

This bill would prohibit the hand-harvesting of horseshoe crabs or the eggs of horseshoe crabs from the waters of Connecticut. Horseshoe crabs are an important contributor to coastal biodiversity, and we support provision of protections.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Yours truly,



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